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Office of Proceedings
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Pr. 1087X



October 21, 2011

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MANAGEMENT
STB

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

231180

Re: Grenada Railway LLC – Abandonment of railroad line between Milepost 622.5 and milepost 703.8. – In Mississippi – STB Docket AB-1087X

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing in opposition to the application filed by Grenada Railway LLC ("GRYR") for abandonment of the railroad line between milepost 622.5 near Grenada, Mississippi and milepost 703.8 near Canton, Mississippi, a distance of 81.3 miles in Grenada, Montgomery, Carroll, Holmes, Yazoo, and Madison Counties, MS.

Our company uses the Grenada Railway line to ship over 80,000 tons of newsprint annually to customers located predominantly in the Southern U.S. and Mexico. As a result, we moved approximately 1,000 cars per year through this southern section and over the Canton, MS interchange. The application filed by the GRYR does not mention this volume, apparently because it does not originate in the section cited for abandonment, but indeed; it travels through it. The reasons for excluding our volumes from the abandonment application is unclear, however we can assure you that the total volume moving on the southern line and provided by the GRYR is factually inaccurate. Abandonment of this line forces us into more expensive, less competitive alternatives while we are already challenged by the current business climate to manage costs.

It is our opinion, that the GRYR has since the purchase of the line from the Canadian National Railway (Illinois Central) some one and a half years ago, engaged in a strategy to systematically discourage traffic over the southern section, through reductions in service levels and by increasing rates by 40%.

We believe that the GRYR intentionally drove customers like us away from the line in order to make a credible case for abandonment, without taking into consideration the potential negative economic impacts such actions would have on existing customers and the regional economy.

Cynthia T. Brown
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AbitibiBowater, Grenada Operations, on an annual basis accounts for over \$19 million in local payroll & benefits and purchases in excess of \$30 million in materials and services from the local and regional economies. We have 179 permanent, full-time employees. The threat to competitive transportation options could have a devastating effect on our operation and consequential negative impacts upon the local and regional economy.

I urge you to consider the economic health of our industries and our communities as you analyze Grenada Railway's abandonment application.

I certify that the foregoing letter has been served upon each of the parties of record by e-mail, facsimile transmission or prepaid first-class mail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade H. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wade" being more prominent.

Wade H. Taylor
General Manager

Cc: Mr. Fritz R. Kahn
Fritz R. Kahn, P.C.
1920 N Street, N.W.
(8th Floor)
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Pablo Diaz
Grenada County Economic Development District
81 South Church Street
Grenada, MS 38901